

MEMORANDUM | July 22, 2020

TO Erin McDonnell and David Lacey, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

FROM Peter Shanahan, HydroAnalysis, Inc (HAI); Jennifer Hart and Gail Fricano, Industrial Economics, Inc. (IEc)

SUBJECT Comments on the “Staff Report, Recommended Remedial Action for Willamette Cove Upland Site, Portland, Oregon,” dated March 2020

This review of the *Staff Report, Recommended Remedial Action for Willamette Cove Upland Site, Portland, Oregon* (Staff Report; dated March 2020) has been prepared on behalf of the Five Tribes.¹ The Five Tribes previously submitted comments on the *Revised Feasibility Study and Source Control Evaluation, Willamette Cove Upland Facility* in a memorandum on April 10, 2019 and on the Port’s subsequent *Response to Comments* in a memorandum on July 26, 2019. The Five Tribes also provided comments on the *Groundwater Source Control Evaluation and Alternatives Analysis, Willamette Cove Upland Facility, Portland, Oregon* in memoranda dated July 26, 2019 and February 27, 2020.

GENERAL COMMENTS

Design Considerations

1. Our memorandum of April 10, 2019 questioned the potential for erosion of the consolidation area, which will border the 100-year flood plain, if flooded. We believe page 39 of the Staff Report satisfactorily identifies the potential for flooding of the site as a design consideration.
2. Our memorandum of July 26, 2019 requested that the on-site consolidation area be designed so as not to detract from the appearance and use of the site for future passive recreation. This question regarding the future configuration and design of the on-site consolidation area will not be addressed until detailed designs are prepared but should be identified in the Staff Report as a consideration for design. The Staff Report states on page 55 that “The final cap design would be tailored in coordination with Metro’s plan for a nature park with a regional trail.” This suggests that the final design will fit future site use; however, we recommend including a more explicit statement that the consolidation facility will be designed to create an aesthetic fit with the site and its future use.

East Parcel

3. In the July 26, 2019 and February 27, 2020 memoranda, we contend that the East Parcel needs additional consideration as a potential groundwater contamination

¹ The five tribes are the Confederated Tribes of The Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

source. The last paragraph of Section 3.1.2.1 on page 22 of the Staff Report says there will be additional groundwater sampling and possible consideration of “other remedial options, including those in the Upland.” Given this Staff Report is intended to provide DEQ’s recommendations for the Upland remedial action, deferring additional sampling and consideration of other remedial options to future remedial design efforts is not optimal. We remain concerned that the East Parcel may present a source of groundwater contamination and expect the pre-design investigation will include groundwater sampling in order to adequately characterize potential groundwater contamination on the East Parcel. We will pay particular attention to this issue when we review the pre-design investigation work plan and reporting.

4. Page 25 of the Staff Report discusses arsenic concentrations relative to background levels, and numerical background concentrations are given in Table 3. We recommend that the source of the background concentrations (DEQ, 2018) be cited.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

5. Page 17 and elsewhere – There are numerous references to the “debris area” that was excavated to 5-foot depth. We recommend identifying the location of this area on site maps.
6. Page 23 – In discussing the “Inner Cove Sheen/NAPL” the report states “Subsequent work suggest [sic] impacts associated with these samples were not connected to upland sources.” As further justification that upland sources are not the source of the sheen, we recommend the report include a discussion of what the potential source(s) could be.
7. Page 24 – The last paragraph discusses recreational users as potential receptors. This discussion fails to clearly distinguish the current scenario (e.g., trespassing runners) from the future scenario (e.g., park users) and does not clarify that the future scenario is conservative in assuming active recreational use even though that use is not currently planned. The Feasibility Study provided a more clear and concise description of recreational users as potential receptors, and we recommend that DEQ clarify these scenarios in the Staff Report.
8. Page 34 – The last paragraph starts “Taking into account...” without stating how the referenced areas are taken into account. This sentence should be revised for clarity (e.g., “Deducting the concrete pad area...”).
9. Page 46 – There is a typo mid-page, “exaction” should be corrected to either excavation or extraction.

REFERENCES

DEQ, 2018. Fact Sheet: Background Levels of Metals in Soils for Cleanups. State of Oregon, Department of Environmental Quality, Environmental Cleanup Program, Portland, Oregon. January 25, 2018.